

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
27 October 2005 (27.10.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/100595 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **C12Q 1/68, 1/70**

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/GB2005/001431

(22) International Filing Date: 14 April 2005 (14.04.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
0408424.0 15 April 2004 (15.04.2004) GB

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 2005/100595 A1

(54) Title: VIRAL ASSAY

(57) Abstract: The application relates to an assay method for studying the effect of at least one compound on RN virus replication and transcription comprising the steps of providing a synthetic RN molecule encoding at least a portion of the genome of an RN virus of interest and a copy of a reporter gene; incubating a cell containing the RN molecule with the or each compound and detecting an amount of reporter gene product. Preferably the RNA virus is a paramyxovirus such as human respiratory syncytial virus or avian pneumovirus. The assay may be automated to allow the screening of large numbers of compounds for anti-viral activity. Kits for carrying out the assay method are also disclosed.